

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-II

DATE: 25 September 2008

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum
Department of Health

ATTENDANCE:

Committee-II: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Raymond C. Coia, Esq., Gary Gaube, Sen. Catherine E. Graziano R.N., Ph.D., Robert Hamel, R.N., Robert J. Quigley, D.C, (Chair), Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

Excused: Wallace Gernt, Maria R. Gil, Denise Panichas

Not Present: Ellen Nelson, Ph. D.

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Stacey Pabst (intern)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. Minutes of Project Review Committee-II meetings of 28 August 2008 and 18 September 2008 were approved as submitted. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of seven in favor with none opposed (7-0) that the availability of minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame as provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Coia, Graziano, Hamel, Quigley, Gaube, Shire.

2. General Order of Business

The next item on the agenda was the application of **Sleep HealthCenters, LLC** for initial licensure as an Organized Ambulatory Care Facility to operate a sleep medicine center at 175 Nate Whipple Highway in Cumberland. Staff summarized the proposal and noted the handed out letter from Mr. Savage, Esq, Special Master of Landmark Medical Center (“LMC”).

Mr. Wineberg, legal counsel to the applicant, reviewed the proposal. The Chair asked if the applicant had tried to work with any existing providers in Rhode Island. The applicant responded that it had been in talks with LMC and will try to work with them if the opportunity arises. Dr.

Verna added that he works with LMC and believes this project is not taking away from the hospital but will provide better overall care. To Mr. Hamel's question about competition, the applicant replied that there is currently not enough availability and this will only provide additional access.

Staff raised a question regarding any restrictions the applicant faced because Respiroics has the greatest share of ownership in the company. The applicant responded that there were no restrictions and their most important goal was to satisfy referring providers. No service agreement exists with Respiroics. The Chair requested that the applicant identify by percentage of business each of its suppliers.

The Committee agreed to address further questions at a later meeting, in order to provide time for the applicant to continue negotiations with LMC.

The next item on the agenda was the application of **South County Quality Care, Inc.** [South County Hospital Healthcare System] to establish a Home Nursing Care Provider Agency at 14 Woodruff Avenue in Narragansett.

The applicant reviewed responses to follow up questions. The applicant noted that they would maintain the existing Home Care Provider license. The applicant noted that the instant proposal would allow it to provide home nursing care service to private pay clients and that VNS Home Health Services, its sister company, would continue to serve Medicare and Medicaid patients. To staff questions about 1% uncompensated care requirement, the applicant responded that they provide more than the 1% minimum.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of seven in favor and none opposed (7-0) to recommend that the applicant be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Coia, Graziano, Hamel, Quigley, Gaube, Shire.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA
Health Economics Specialist.